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## SUCCESS STORY

### Vocational Training Graduates Are Able To Face the Future

#### **Community in Chechnya Comes Together to Celebrate the Success of Young Graduates**



*Young graduates receive their diplomas.*

***Providing vocational training and business development support, the USAID-funded project VPERYED! (Go For It!) is implemented by IRC in partnership with World Vision, Patriot and Modern Humanitarian Academy.***

***In the Urus-Martan district of Chechnya, 80% of graduates have found jobs, apprenticeships, started businesses or gone on to further training.***

Finding a job in Chechnya and Dagestan, where the unemployment rate is around 70 per cent, is not easy. That's why the USAID supported *Vperyed (Go for It!)* project has provided vocational training in marketable skills to 400 young people, coming as a breath of fresh air to hundreds of unemployed youth seeking for independence and a future.

In Chechnya at the end of 2007 the final graduation ceremony took place for vocational course graduates at Urus-Martan School Number 5. The event was attended by course graduates, their proud parents, IRC, the local government, members of the media and representatives from IRC and its local partner in Chechnya, Patriot.

While presenting diplomas to the graduates Sveta Tukaeva, the IRC Program Manager for *Vperyed*, noted that the day marked the graduates first step into a brighter future. Said-Magomed, the Program Manager from "Patriot", also offered his support to graduates at the event saying "Our NGO will support you in your job placement and will provide advice and assistance whenever you need it".

"I feel much more useful to my family and to society as well," says hairdressing graduate Milana, who is now able to support her elderly parents. Her mother smiling proudly says "Milana had attended computing and English before, but these did not help her, but now... she is starting her own business."

"These courses are extremely important, since they give people a sense of independence and the ability to contribute to society," says Khava, who graduated from the tailoring course. Khava enrolled hoping that tailoring skills would help her find a job. Initially she felt rather insecure, but gradually, from class to class, her confidence grew along with her knowledge and skills. She now says she is sure that she can meet the requirements of any prospective employer or start her own business.

The graduation ceremony concluded with a speech by Mr. Ruslan Tulikov, the deputy head of Urus-Martan local government, which has provided apprenticeships to many course graduates. Congratulating the young people he said "We hope that these activities will improve the unemployment situation in our district, we also hope that more will happen to help young people to participate in the district's business development".